United Nations A/C.5/59/20

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 November 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Fifth Committee
Agenda items 108 and 150

Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

International convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings

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Programme budget implications arising from the decision of the Chairman of the Sixth Committee at its 27th meeting of 19 November 2004

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Introduction

1. At the 27th meeting, on 19 November 2004, the Chairman of the Sixth Committee made a statement proposing that the Committee establish a working group to finalize the text of a United Nations declaration on human cloning, on the basis of draft resolution A/C.6/59/L.26, and to report to the Sixth Committee during the current session.

2. In that connection, at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement regarding the administrative and budgetary implications of the proposal of the Chairman (see A/C.6/59/SR.27), following which, on the basis of the proposal, the Committee decided without a vote to establish a working group.

II. Request contained in the proposal of the Chairman of the Sixth Committee

3. In connection with that decision, the General Assembly would:

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(a) Decide to establish a working group to finalize the text of a United Nations declaration on human cloning;

(b) Decide that the working group would meet on 14, 15 and 18 February 2005 and that the Sixth Committee would meet in the afternoon of 18 February 2005 to consider and take action on the report of the working group.

III. Relationship of the request to the programme of work

4. The request arising from the decision is related to: (a) subprogramme 3, Progressive development and codification of international law, of programme 5, Legal affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 as revised;[1] and (b) section 8, Legal affairs, and section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.[2]

IV. Activities by which the request would be implemented

5. Should the General Assembly endorse the decision, the activities required for the implementation of the request would be as follows: the Sixth Committee would meet on 14, 15 and 18 February 2005. There would be five meetings of the working group and one formal meeting of the Sixth Committee. The formal meeting would require simultaneous interpretation and summary records in all six languages of the United Nations. The five meetings of the working group would require simultaneous interpretation in all six languages and 20 pages of pre-session, 16 pages of in-session and 10 pages of post-session documentation to be issued in all languages.

V. Additional requirements

6. The conference-servicing requirements, at full cost, for the one formal meeting to be held on 18 February 2005 would entail an estimated additional amount of $37,500 (at 2004-2005 rates) under section 2 of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.

VI. Potential for absorption

7. As concerns the five meetings of the working group in February 2005, the conference-servicing requirements, at full cost, are estimated at $128,600 (at 2004-2005 rates).

8. It is understood that those meetings would be held in lieu of the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on an international convention against the reproductive cloning of human beings, which has already been programmed in the calendar of conferences and meetings for the biennium 2004-2005. Therefore, on this basis, no additional appropriation would be required to service the five meetings of the working group.

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6* and corrigendum (A/57/6/Rev.1 and Corr.1).

[2] A/58/6 (Sect. 8) and A/58/6 (Sect. 2).

VII. Contingency fund

9. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the approved or proposed programme budget. Under that procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities must be deferred to a later biennium.

VIII. Summary

10. **In summary, the implications of the proposals contained in the decision of the Chairman of the Sixth Committee at its 27th meeting on 19 November 2004 for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 would be as follows:**

(a) **No additional provision would be required for the servicing of the five-day session of the working group in February 2005;**

(b) **An additional appropriation of $37,500 (at 2004-2005 rates), as a charge against the contingency fund, would be required in respect of the one formal meeting of the Sixth Committee anticipated for 18 February 2005.**